



2015 PA Youth Survey (PAYS) for Lancaster County Mental Health Concerns and Suicide Risk

The following tables provide data on youth self-reports of mental health concerns, including suicide risk, for grades 6, 8, 10 and 12.

Lancaster County and Pennsylvania state data was collected by administration of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (2015). Beginning with the 2013 administration, PAYS was offered at no charge to any school or district (public, private, charter, and parochial) courtesy of funding provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (PDDAP), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

In order to ensure the highest level of confidence in the survey results, measures are implemented to retain only those surveys that are deemed to be most honest and to remove surveys determined to contain possible dishonest or exaggerated responses. The results within this county report (Lancaster) are based on 11,393 honest responses (out of 11,629 surveys submitted).

Data on mental health concerns have been collected in Lancaster County since 2005, while suicide risk data collection began in 2013. For more info on the PAYS, go to www.compassmark.org/facts.html.

Table 1: Mental health concerns

Question text	Lancaster County					PA	Lancaster Co.	
	6 th %	8 th %	10 th %	12 th %	Overall %	Overall 2015	Overall 2009	Overall 2005
Self-harm (e.g. cutting, scraping, burning) in the past 12 months	9.7	16.6	17.2	12.9	14.6	15.1	n/a	n/a
Felt depressed or sad MOST days in the past 12 months	31.8	35.8	38.2	36.6	35.7	38.3	28.1	32.8
Sometimes I think that life is not worth it	17.2	24	25.6	25.1	23.1	23.9	19.9	23.4
At times I think I am no good at all	28.5	33.1	35.9	35.7	33.3	34.7	26.0	32.3
All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure	14.7	20	21.5	20.3	19.3	19.9	12.4	16.4

Table 2: Suicide risk

Question text	Lancaster County					PA	Lancaster Co.
	6 th %	8 th %	10 th %	12 th %	Overall %	Overall 2015	Overall 2013
So sad stopped doing usual activities	15.5	19.3	23.5	21.7	20.1	21.5	n/a
Considered suicide	8.3	16.7	19.9	17.8	16.0	16.0	16.3
Planned suicide	5.5	13.8	16.2	14.3	12.8	12.7	12.1
Attempted suicide	5.9	10.2	11.5	10.3	9.7	9.5	9.2
Needed medical treatment for suicide attempt	1.2	2.6	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.1